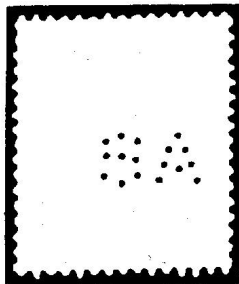


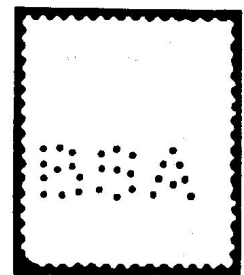
MORE FROM MULTIPLES & LARGE FORMAT STAMPS.

By Roy Gault



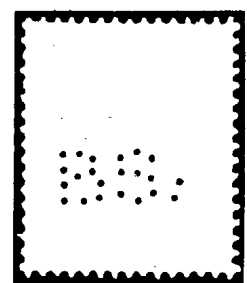
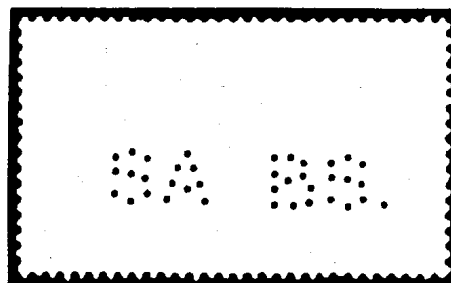
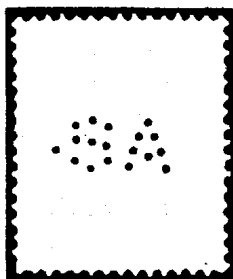
S0060.05

When viewed in isolation, the G.B. perfin SA (S0060.05) as shown in the New Illustrated Catalogue looks convincing enough. Perhaps a little offset to the right, but perfins cannot always be found perfectly centred.



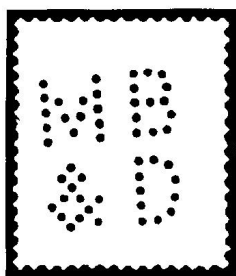
B6490.01M

However, the following examples sent in by Chris Carr allow us to view this perfin in a different light. From left to right they are ".SA" on 3d issue 'R'¹, pmk Birmingham, 195?; "SA" and "BS." on QEII 2½d Freedom From Hunger commemorative (issue dates to 1963); and "BS:" on 3d U(MC). This is just a representative selection, many more are known to exist.



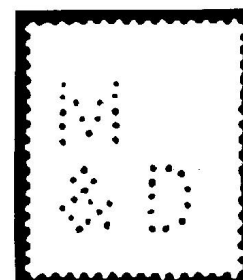
The full strike is "BSA" (B6490.01M), a perfin known to have been used by the Birmingham Small Arms Co Ltd between 1939 and 1969. This die life of 30 years is well above the 10 year average, but problems seem to have been encountered fairly early on judging by the number of pins missing in the issue 'R' illustrated above. The two patterns on the large format stamp is proof enough that SA (S0060.05) is a partial and can be deleted from the catalogue.

Note: The Birmingham Small Arms company was established in 1863 by the amalgamation of fourteen Birmingham gunsmiths who had made weapons for the Crimean War. Much later they diversified into other activities, notably the manufacture of Motor Cycles.



M0600.02M

Again when viewed in isolation, the two perfin MB/&D and M/&D can be seen to match. No doubt they were given separate catalogue numbers on the grounds that the loss of the letter "B" probably reflected a change in company name.



M2035.01

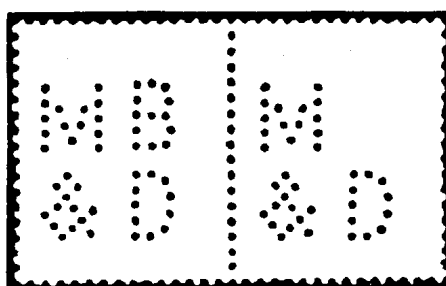
John Mathews reported the user of perfin MB/&D (M2035.01M) in Bulletin No.274 (Feb '95) as Mirrlees, Bickerton & Day Ltd, Hazel Grove, Near Stockport, Cheshire. By coincidence, it is also John who reports this joined pair of 2V2d issue 'R' showing both patterns and postmarked Hazel Grove, 1945. This multiple clearly establishes that the die was multi-headed and so receives the suffix 'M'.

ED: None

Q 2½d

R 2½d

LD:1945



ED: 9/5/1944

Q ½d

R 1d, 2½d

LD: 5/2/1946

Based on issue and postmark information, the die was in use from 1939 to 1946, probably with the "B" missing from quite early on. The perfin M/&D (M2035.001) is technically a partial and can be deleted from the catalogue.

Finally, Peter Maybury reports two joined pairs which also prove multiheaded die status. He has "JA/E" (J0160.01 and J0160.01a) on 1/- issue Q' which allows J0160.01 to become J0160.01M and J0160.01a to be deleted. The die was somewhat short lived as it was only in use 1939-1941, and probably destroyed during an air raid on London. The second pair has "OP/L" (01540.01 and 01540.01a) on ½d issue 'O' producing O1540.01M and the loss of 01540.01a. This die was in use 1930 to 1937.

Has anyone any similar multiples or large format stamps to report?